

**Applicant Name** Ekalaka, Town of  
**Project Name** Ekalaka Water and Wastewater Improvements

### **Project Abstract**

The Town of Ekalaka is submitting a grant application to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for a project to replace the following water and wastewater deficiencies:

- Replace water and sewer mains that run parallel to each other down the Main Street of Ekalaka;
- Update the controls in the main lift station;
- Replace a single pump lift station;
- Replace the water main that runs from the storage reservoir to town; and
- Replace an old fire hydrant that is made of four-inch cast iron lead.

The project presented in this DNRC application represents one of many long-term, comprehensive solutions to correct defined deficiencies and provide renewable resource benefits.

The renewable resource benefits to this project are as follows:

- Replacing the water mains that are 70-plus years old will save on water usage for the town. (Page 1 of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) notes several water main breaks in the last two years and that the mains being replaced are made of cast iron and are severely pitted.)
- Replacing the sewer mains that are 70-plus years old will alleviate ground contamination. (Page 2 of the PER notes a television report that two tapped service lines intruded into the sewer main and at least 200 feet of the existing main spalling.)
- Replacing the single pump lift station will alleviate surface water contamination. (Page 2 of the PER notes that this lift station has had several float system problems causing sewage to back up and overflow into Russell Creek and back up into two homes.)
- Replacing the controls in the main lift station will help in management efficiency and again alleviate contamination due to sewer blockage and overflows. (Page 2 of the PER documents several false alarms with the paging system and sewer backups that have resulted in several insurance claims.)
- Updating the electrical and control problems of the lift stations will free maintenance workers for other things. (Uniform Environmental Checklist, No. 15, Social Services.)
- Updating the electrical and control problems of the lift stations will improve the efficiency of both stations. (Uniform Environmental Checklist, No. 18, Energy Resources.)
- Replacing the existing four-, six-, and eight-inch cast iron water mains to six- and eight-inch PVC water mains and replacement of one four-inch cast iron hydrant to a six-inch PVC will increase the water flows, a positive impact for fire protection. (Uniform Environmental Checklist, No. 24, Fire Protection.)